

WVHSA NEWSLETTER

Exciting News:

MIECHV Home Visitation Comes to Mercer County

By Traci Dalton, Head Start State Collaboration Director

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Community Action of South Eastern West Virginia is excited to announce a wonderful new partnership with the DHHR Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health Home Visiting Program. The partnership will support the delivery of comprehensive child development services for thirty six additional families utilizing the Early Head Start model. Darlene Martin, Director of CASE WV Head Start/ Early Head Start stated, "We feel privileged to have an opportunity to provide high quality services to thirty six additional families in our community. It is about Children and Families. The focus of the program is to support parents as their child's primary educator while they expand their knowledge of child development and work with the Home Visitors to assure many opportunities for their children's learning experiences across the domains."

This partnership is the first of its kind in West Virginia; utilizing Federal Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) funds to support expansion of the Early Head Start-Home Based model. This expansion marks a new phase to the on-going collaboration between the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health (OMCFH) and the Head Start/Early Head Start community. Previous collaborations have been: the Home Visitation Stakeholder committee, the annual home visitation conference, statewide regional home visitation planning committees, Help Me Grow, and enhancing online professional development opportunities.

Despite these numerous achievements the work is not yet complete; additional communities around the State may also get an opportunity to see services expanded. Federal and State leaders continue to promote the importance of evidence-based home visitation models such as Early Head Start-Home Based. The WV DHHR, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health Home Visitation Program under the leadership of Jackie Newson is dedicated to children and families and collaborating to expand all evidence-based home visitation models. Ms. Newson states, "We are excited to welcome the first of hopefully several Early Head Start-Home Based option programs." Thus, other communities around the state may receive expansion in the future.

The Head Start State Collaboration Office wants to thank Jackie Newson and OMCFH for their commitment to collaborate to improve outcomes for children and families and would like to congratulate Community Action of South Eastern West Virginia on this exciting expansion of services. The Collaboration Office encourages all Head Start and Early Head Start programs to participate in the home visitation committees held within your region to be engaged in planning efforts for your community.

If you would like information regarding this partnership or how to get involved in the home visitation planning efforts for your community feel free to contact the Head Start State Collaboration Office @ Traci.L.Dalton@wv.gov, or Jackie Newson @ Jackie.J.Newson@wv.gov.

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Become a Member of the West Virginia Head Start Association

For more information contact Becky Gooch-Erbacher, Executive Director at (304) 233-4450.

Greenbrier County Campaign for Reading

Pre-K Through Grade 12

By Nancy Hanna, Director of Early Childhood Education

In preparation for the Campaign for Grade Level Reading, Greenbrier County Schools established a focus on reading called, 'The Stories That We Share'. Led by Superintendent Sallie Dalton, this has been a Pre-K through Grade 12 focus in our county. We've created two brochures about the campaign and facts parents should know about reading. These are available in our schools, on our website, and in our community.

Our elementary schools participate in Read Aloud. Through a grant from the United Way, our Pre-K students receive at least one book a month. Many elementary schools also provide one or two books per year to all students through RIF or other organizations.

Middle School students participated in a project called 'Can You Hear Me?'. English, art, and technology teachers collaborated to create cans decorated with student artwork in which poems written by students were recorded and placed in area businesses.

High school principals created "Cyber Cafes" with comfortable furnishings welcoming to students in their libraries and commons areas where students can relax and read. Additionally, the Technology and Curriculum Specialists have facilitated the process for all students to apply for library cards. With the cards, students are able to download books from WV Reads. As a county, we've also purchased 108 high interest e-books for secondary students to check out on One Drive. With those 108 books, 181 check-outs have been logged. Students also have access to The Guggenheim project which has over 46,000 books available on the public domain. Since January, our students have checked out 239 books from this site.

Pre-K teachers are receiving year-long professional development through the WVDE literacy modules. All teachers have received professional development in literacy beginning with Summer Academy where we developed progression charts for standards and evaluated: 1. What does this standard look like in this particular grade level? 2. What does it look like if students know this standard? 3. What do we do if they know it? (How do we enrich?) 4. What do we do if they don't?

This professional development has continued throughout the school year in after school sessions and through job-embedded professional development through Technology and Curriculum Specialists. Additional professional development has been given for IPAP (Intensive Phonemic Awareness Program), and the five components of reading, and writing.

Currently, we are working on our Action Plan for the campaign and putting lots of thought into adopting a new reading series that will allow us to continue our commitment to growing literate, competent children today, which will impact career and college readiness tomorrow.

West Virginia Head Start Programs to Implement Practice-Based Coaching

By: Karen Browning, Director Coalfield CAP

In their efforts to continually support teachers' ability to effect positive child outcomes, the National Center on Quality Teaching and Learning (NCQTL) has adopted a coaching model known as "Practice-Based Coaching" (PBC). This model focuses on three (3) components that programs will implement in a variety of ways, depending upon the nature of the program's needs (1. planning goals and action steps; 2. engaging in focused observation; 3. reflecting on and sharing feedback about teaching practices). PBC is described by NCQTL as "a cyclical process for supporting teachers' use of effective teaching practices that lead to positive outcomes for children." In preparation for implementation of this coaching model, NCQTL has scheduled training events for programs interested in participating.

Head Start Programs were contacted by their T/TA Specialists to determine interest and ability to attend training events. Four (4) West Virginia Head Start Programs attended the Practice-Based Coaching Leadership Academy in February 2015. Leadership Teams attending included: Central WV Community Action Head Start, Coalfield CAP, Inc. Head Start, Monroe County BOE Head Start, and North Central Community Action Head Start. Team members included the Head Start Director, Managers, Teachers, and BOE partners (pre-k coordinators). Teams participated in training that ultimately culminated in each program's Coaching PATH (plan for implementation of the coaching model).

The second phase of the training involved coaches from each program attending a "Practice-Based Coaches Training" where the Coaching Teams participated in activities to equip them with the necessary tools to enhance their abilities to coach staff.

More information about Practice-Based Coaching can be accessed through the Early Childhood Knowledge and Learning Center (ECKLC) website, or by contacting your Program's T/TA Specialist.



President Lyndon B. Johnson addressing guests and announcing Project Head Start in 1965.

Please mark your calendars for our June 2 and 3, 2015 Association Training and Meeting Event as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary!

**Your West Virginia Head Start Association
2014-15 Board of Directors**

President: Marlene Midget

Vice-President: Open (June)

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Staff: Trella Coppola, Tracy Cox, Patty Fussell, Janice Jackson, Linda Leggett, Yvonne Quinn

Parents: Brandon Mitchell

Friends: John French, Stephanie Paynter, Terri Wontrobski

Liaison: Tim Salmons

UP & COMING

2015 WVHS Association Meeting Dates

March—3/3 & 3/4/2015 Charleston, WV

June—6/2 & 6/3/2015 Charleston, WV

2013-14 WVHSA Board of Directors Meeting Dates

12/11/14 Conference call

1/08/15 Conference call

2/12/15 Conference call

4/09/15 Conference call

5/14/15 Conference call

No Call Conference call

8/13/15 Conference call

9/10/15 Conference call

10/08/15 Conference call

11/12/15 TBA

***MISSION
STATEMENT***

***The West Virginia Head Start
Association's Mission Statement for
2010-2014***

Speaking with one voice for West Virginia's young children and families by:

- involving parents as decision makers,
- advocating for high quality services,
- strengthening partnerships on the local and state level,
- providing statewide training for early childhood programs, and
- circulating key information to local Head Start programs.